



Three Year BSc Degree Courses with a year in North America or Australasia

For over 20 years the University of Lancaster has operated a successful exchange scheme with Universities in the USA and Canada. The scheme has now expanded to include exchanges with Universities in Australia, New Zealand, and Hong Kong. The year abroad is not an add-on to your degree; it is fully integrated so that you can complete your BSc in just three years. More than 80% of our exchange students get an upper second or first class degree so, in addition to enhancing your job prospects, the experience broadens your academic horizons and provides you with an understanding of another culture and society.

Where can you go? From a range of overseas universities with whom Lancaster has links, Biology staff have selected a manageable group for our students to choose from. These Universities have equivalent standards of excellence, in both teaching and research, as Biology at Lancaster. They have also received excellent reports from our students with regards to course variety and the level of student support. In the United States, our students can spend their second year at the Universities of California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa State, Maine, Miami, Michigan State, North Carolina Charlotte, North Carolina State, Oregon State and Purdue. In Canada, we have links with the University of British Columbia (Vancouver), Carleton University (Ottawa), University of Alberta (Edmonton), University of Western Ontario (London), and the University of Calgary. Six partners are available in Australasia; Griffith University (Brisbane), Queensland University of Technology (Brisbane), Macquarie University

(Sydney), Wollongong University (Sydney) and Monash University (Melbourne) in Australia, along with Waikato University in Hamilton, New Zealand. An opportunity also exists to study at City University, Hong Kong. The choice of destinations and number of places can vary from year-to-year, so we cannot guarantee that you will be able to go to your first choice, but we are sure that wherever you go, it will be an experience to remember. If you have a burning desire to spend your second year at a University not listed above, this is still possible, as long as the study abroad advisor at Lancaster can approve the Biology department and student support services there.

What help do you get before and during your year abroad? The University's International office takes care of your logistic needs while the study abroad advisor for Biology takes care of your educational needs. After a series of briefings with advisers, and informal get-togethers with students who have just returned from their year abroad, you decide which University you would like to attend. The Biology study abroad advisor will then help you select appropriate courses to take, while the International office will help you fill out all the relevant paperwork (accommodation, visas etc.). During your year abroad, the International office at the Partner University will take care of your welfare via meetings, social events and excursions. Your academic advisor at Lancaster University will remain in close contact with you, via email and a virtual tutorial group, to ensure that your academic studies are progressing satisfactorily.



Claire Dixon

"I undertook a study abroad programme at the University of Miami in Florida during the second year of my Biochemistry degree. It was a once in a lifetime experience and helped me to grow both personally and academically. It was extremely rewarding in so many ways and opened up unique opportunities, including a marine biology class with field trips to the mangrove forests. Throughout my time I had excellent support from Lancaster and it enabled me to rejoin the course in my third year with ease. I would definitely recommend the Study Abroad option at Lancaster to anybody."



Further information visit our web sites at:
<http://www.lec.lancs.ac.uk/>
<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/shm/bls/>



Study Abroad Degrees

Can I afford it?

Whilst there are clear financial implications in living abroad for a year, the study abroad scheme does not cost as much as you might think. The experience of past students suggests that they typically spend £1500-£2000 more than students staying in Lancaster. There is financial help available in the form of (i) reduced fees to Lancaster University, (ii) an enhanced student loan, (iii) a Lancaster University bursary (for the University of California) and (iv) your Local Education Authority (LEA) will normally fund your flights, and sometimes medical insurance, although this is worth checking now as different LEAs have different policies. There are also opportunities to earn extra money whilst abroad. In North America, the student visa allows you to work on campus only, but there are many positions available. In Australasia, the student visa allows you to work anywhere, and you have a three-month summer break (November to February), in between the two semesters, in which to do this and/or travel. In fact, travelling around your host country is the most significant 'extra expense' incurred by students during their year abroad...but it has to be done!

Entry requirements

Because study abroad places are limited (25 per year), competition is high and thus placements are conditional upon getting good grades in both your A-levels and within the first year of study at Lancaster. Current entry requirements are AAB at A-level. Applicants with other types of qualification should enquire for details. We will also automatically consider you for the 'standard' degree scheme (for which the entry requirements are typically ABB at A-level) and therefore you do not need to list both courses on your UCAS form. If, at any time during your first year, you decide that you no longer want to study abroad, you can simply switch to the standard degree scheme...but isn't it nice to have the choice of accepting or refusing a place?

Still undecided?

Here are some examples of typical answers from students when asked about their year abroad...

"Wonderful - best year of my life. I discovered new interests, met loads of incredible people, and took part in activities and events that I would never have had the opportunity to do in England"

(A.W. attended the University of Maine)

"Absolutely brilliant! Worth every dollar!"

(C.A. attended the University of California, Irvine)

If you require further information, specifically about the year abroad, then please feel free to contact;

Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, and Cell Biology Study Abroad degrees

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Conservation Biology, Ecology, Environmental Biology Study Abroad degrees

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